

Applicant : Bickerstaff, et al.
Serial No. : 09/471,964
Filed : December 23, 1999
Page : 11 of 11

Attorney's Docket No.: 10559-096001 / P7615

REMARKS

Without conceding any of the examiner's rejections, and reserving the right to prosecute other claims including claims of the breadth of claims 1, 11, and 21, the applicant has for the moment amended claims 1, 11, and 21 to include all of the features of claims 7 through 9, 16 through 19, and 26 through 29. The applicant asserts that amended claims 1, 11, and 21 would not have been obvious from the combination of the four different references Haggard, Boyd, Ahuja, and Clarke. The mere fact that no fewer than four references would likely be cited by the examiner to reject the claims as having been obvious itself suggests the non-obviousness of the claims. In addition the examiner has not established that there is any suggestion to combine the four references without impermissible hindsight based on the applicant's own claim used as the roadmap.

The applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are patentable.

The fact that the applicant has addressed certain positions of the examiner does not mean that the applicant concedes other stated positions of the examiner. The fact that the applicant has made arguments for patentability of claims does not mean that the applicant concedes that there are not other good reasons for patentability of those or other claims.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, reference 10559-096001.

Date: 12/23/3

Respectfully submitted,



David L. Feigenbaum
Reg. No. 30,378

Fish & Richardson P.C.
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA 02110-2804
Telephone: (617) 542-5070
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906
20767024.doc

C